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understanding of the phenomena. In order to understand a process like cultural borrowing psychologically we must strive to comprehend as intensively as possible the concrete conditions of the individual cases. This intimate understanding of social phenomena, I think, is really what we mean when we insist so frequently on the psychological aspect in anthropology. There is nothing like an abstract psychological understanding of cultural phenomena.

HERMAN K. HAEBERLIN

### AFRICA

*Harvard African Studies I: Varia Africana I.* Editor, ORIC BATES, M.A., F.R.G.S.; Assistant Editor, F. H. STERNS, Ph.D. The African Department of the Peabody Museum of Harvard University: Cambridge, Mass., 1917. 9 + 292 pp., numerous pls. and text figs.

According to the editorial announcement this magnificently printed and illustrated publication is the first of a series of similar volumes to be issued annually in the interest of African studies. Purely historical papers are to be barred except in so far as they shed light on anthropological questions and Egyptian articles will deal exclusively with the prehistoric period and the primitive aspects of Nilotc civilization. On the other hand, objective investigations on the somatology, sociology, and folklore of the American Negro will be welcomed. For the entire program the coöperation of both American and European scholars is invited—indeed, several of the papers here bear witness to the inter-continental character of the enterprise.

The breadth of view that has guided the editors is apparent from the titles of the articles in the present volume: M. M. 'Abd Allah, "Siwan Customs" (9 figs.); E. A. Hooton, "Oral Surgery in Egypt during the Old Empire" (2 pls.); J. Roscoe, "Worship of the Dead as practised by some African Tribes;" F. H. Sterns, "The Paleoliths of the Eastern Desert" (map and 18 pls. with 130 figs.); H. D. Mathews, "Notes on the Nungu Tribe, Nassawara Province" (2 figs., 1 pl.); J. Abercromby, "A Study of the Ancient Speech of the Canary Islands;" E. A. Hooton, "Benin Antiquities in the Peabody Museum" (7 pls.); A. Werner, "The Utendi of Mwana Kupona;" R. H. Blanchard, "Notes on Egyptian Saints" (3 pls.); G. A. Reisner, "An Inscription from Gibel Barkal" (1 pl.); O. Bates, "Ancient Egyptian Fishing" (5 text figs., 26 pls. with 254 figs.); R. F. Carroll, "Selected Bibliography of Africana," "Editorial Notes" (8 text figs., 1 pl.).

The most cursory glance at the volume shows that archaeology,

ethnography, and linguistics are all represented without undue favoritism and the very full footnotes and bibliographies accompanying some of the papers indicate the scholarliness of the authors. What seems to the reviewer of even greater importance is the fact that in the longer essays the emphasis is not on purely descriptive detail, considerable attention being devoted to the matter of distribution and to theoretical points. Thus, in his Benin article Dr. Hooton calls attention to the influence of Frobenius' Ifé finds on the Benin problem (p. 130), and Dr. Sterns in his brief description of some "Darfur Gourds" connects their ornamentation with that of Hausa gourds, Kabyle and Upper Egyptian pottery, West Sudanese carving, and northern Africa generally (p. 195). This is, of course, exactly as it should be. Comparative summaries are always in place and give direction to the fieldworker's inquiries.

The longest of the papers is Mr. Oric Bates's "Ancient Egyptian Fishing." Since the reviewer must disclaim even the slightest pretensions to Egyptological learning, he can only record his general impressions. In spite of several digressions the article makes interesting reading and certainly conveys a wealth of concrete information, whether all the suggestions voiced by the writer be accepted by Egyptologists or not. Quite rightly, he does not confine himself to the technological side of the fisherman's activities, but also takes in some of their sociological aspects.

Of the other articles it is simply possible here to refer to Dr. Sterns' detailed description of "The Paleoliths of the Eastern Desert" of Egypt. With exemplary caution the author discusses the possible correlations with European chronology. Though the implements resemble most closely those of the Mousterian period, he insists that all conjectures as to age must remain purely hypothetical until stratified sites yielding comparable material or fossil remains in satisfactory association with such flints have come to light (p. 78).

From a technical point of view an index and legends to accompany illustrations would be very desirable.

All ethnologists must joyfully welcome this addition to the literature of their science. Given the editorial broadmindedness in point of subject-matter and method of treatment, the series cannot fail to aid materially in the solution of African problems, of which there are many and tantalizing ones.

ROBERT H. LOWIE